



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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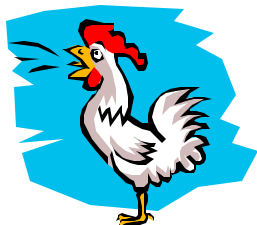
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Poultry Programs

Market News Branch



NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE

Trade sentiment was barely steady to weak in the West and Northeast, steady to barely steady elsewhere. Retail demand was slow to fair, best where feature activity was strong. Food service was fair to fairly good. Supplies were at least adequate for needs. In the parts structure, breast items were in good balance to close with increased interest. Wings were still in a heavy supply with light movement and leg items were mostly sufficient. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were in a full range, but mostly desirable.

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading declined .25 cents to 57.50 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 60.75 cents last year on the 17th of February, 1999.

Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted prices on ice-packed parts for next week's trading.

ITEM	DOCK PRICE (CENTS PER POUND)
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BREASTS - B/S	137.00
BREASTS - WHOLE	66.50
THIGH MEAT - B/S	77.50
LEG QUARTERS	20.50
WINGS	57.50

THIS INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S POULTRY MARKET NEWS SERVICE.

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

15 STATES	PERCENT CHANGE	
WEEK ENDING 02/12/00	2000	1999
EGGS SET	178,356	180,542
CHICKS PLACED	145,947	139,631
		PREVIOUS YEAR
		-01
		+05

Broiler Eggs Set In 15 Selected State Down 1 Percent

Commercial hatcheries in the 15-State weekly program set in incubators 178 million eggs during the week ending February 12, 2000. This was down 1 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 82 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

Broiler Chicks Placed Up 5 Percent

Broiler growers in the 15-State weekly program placed 146 million chicks for meat production during the week ending February 12, 2000. Placements were up 5 percent from the comparable week in 1999. Cumulative placements from January 2, 2000, through February 12, 2000, were 870 million, up 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

BASED ON THE PRELIMINARY CHICK PLACEMENTS, THE NUMBER OF FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING DURING THE WEEK ENDING 25-Mar-00 IS ESTIMATED AT 153.4 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 153.3 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 148.5 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 150.6 MILLION HEAD AND THE 12-CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 56.86 CENTS PER POUND.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS Trade sentiment was weak. Offerings easily adequate to cover current buyer needs. Buying activity was fair. Retail demand moderate. Floor stocks in fair balance. The market tone was firm on bone-in breasts, weak on wings and about steady on balance of parts.

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was about steady. Demand was light to fair. Supplies were at least sufficient for limited needs. In the parts structure, interest for breast items was improved due in part to retail ads. Wings were in a better balance, but were still more than adequate for the light interest. Dark meat items were balanced and moving. In production areas, live supplies were mostly moderate. Weights were light to heavy, mostly desirable.

MIDWEST Whole broiler/fryer trade sentiment was steady, instances barely steady. Additional offerings of whole fryers and wogs were limited, most buyers satisfied with regular commitments. Retail demand was slow to fair, mostly slow. Features noted on whole fryers in Chicago at 59 cents and in the St. Louis area at 49 cents. Food service movement was mixed, light to fairly good. Floor stocks were at least adequate, sizes desirable to instances heavy. Parts trading was light overall. Supplies of all items were fully adequate with breast items in better balance. Trade sentiment was weak on wings and steady to barely steady on breast items, steady on dark meat items.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was light and unaggressive. Offerings, regardless of size, were more than sufficient. Movement into retail and distributive channels was seasonally slow. The market tone was barely steady to mostly weak. In the parts market, wings were long and difficult to move. Breast items were in a better balance. The remainder of parts was more than adequate for current needs.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYER MARKET Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was light to moderate, and typical for mid-week trading activity. Seller offerings varied from plant to plant, but were generally fully sufficient for trade needs. Live supplies were mostly moderate; weight were desirable to heavy. Processing schedules were moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 45 to 57 cents Trade sentiment was about steady. In the parts complex, inquiry for bone-in breast was active. Boneless skinless breast was adequate. Leg quarters were fully adequate. Wings were in excess.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA

	BRANDED U.S. GRADE A
RANGE	38-60
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	48.48
NO. OF BOXES	6,515

*6 of 8 plants reporting.

FEBRUARY 15, 2000

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

FEBRUARY 16, 2000

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	563	119.00-162.00	120	122.80
TENDERLOINS	66	115.00-165.00	115-120	129.39
BREAST - LINE RUN	120	56.00-70.00	56-58	56.93
FRONT HALVES	183	44.00-47.00	44-45	45.00
LEGS	104	28.00-35.00	28-29	29.62
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	483	17.00-20.00	17	17.53
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,138	18.50-22.00	20-21	20.64
WINGS (WHOLE)	140	41.00-47.00	44-45	44.36
WINGS (CUT)	421	54.00-74.00	57-59	58.93
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS
TRADING FOR FEBRUARY 15, 2000 — F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE
30.50 - 33.50	31.27

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	562	119.00-162.00	120-125	122.46
TENDERLOINS	154	115.00-165.00	115-120	121.66
BREAST - LINE RUN	120	56.00-70.00	56-58	56.93
FRONT HALVES	105	45.00-48.00	-	46.67
LEGS	160	28.00-35.00	28-29	33.25
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	541	17.00-20.00	17-18	17.47
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,298	18.50-22.00	21-22	20.68
WINGS (WHOLE)	122	45.00-61.00	45-48	51.82
WINGS (CUT)	444	54.00-76.00	57-59	57.76
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	11	61.00-73.00	-	62.09

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS
TRADING FOR FEBRUARY 16, 2000 — F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
31.00 - 34.00	32.07	31.69

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS

Trucklot buying interest was generally light. Offerings of bone-in breasts were close to adequate. Wings remained ample. The balance was at least adequate. Movement into retail and distributive outlets was mostly slow but occasionally better where features were in progress.

The market tone was fully steady on bone-in breasts, weak on wings and steady at best on the balance.

*PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES

FEBRUARY 15, 2000

FEBRUARY 16, 2000

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	130	128.61	506,520
TENDERLOINS	110-115	119.46	77,216
BREAST - WITH RIBS	50-51	60.06	137,400
BREAST - LINE RUN	50	54.97	130,260
LEGS	26-27	32.24	189,440
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	17-18	20.75	200,319
DRUMSTICKS	36-37	33.94	137,280
THIGHS	21-22	25.00	93,720
B/S THIGHS	70-71	72.51	29,030
WINGS (WHOLE)	43-44	51.35	153,440
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.05	45,640
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	34.00	34,495
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	59.40	46,550

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	130	132.57	252,640
TENDERLOINS	110-115	119.83	58,440
BREAST - WITH RIBS	52-53	62.05	153,740
BREAST - LINE RUN	52	55.88	213,300
LEGS	26-27	32.48	138,960
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	16-17	19.57	315,164
DRUMSTICKS	36-37	34.28	81,360
THIGHS	21-22	27.74	64,482
B/S THIGHS	70-71	72.43	28,600
WINGS (WHOLE)	43-44	51.27	182,840
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.04	49,200
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	34.16	35,480
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	58.54	44,520

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG).

* TODAY'S NEGOTIATED SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATED	ACTUAL	AVG WTS	ACTUAL	AVG WTS
	02/16	02/15	02/14	02/11	02/09
ALA	3,844	3,890	3,708	4,033	5.06
ARK	5,144	5,195	5,041	5,430	4.95
DELMARVA	2,437	2,415	2,372	2,666	5.30
KY-LA-TN	2,031	2,005	2,002	1,761	4.42
MISS	2,478	2,766	2,784	3,082	5.16
NC	2,580	2,627	2,601	3,274	5.88
TEXAS	2,208	2,183	2,200	2,379	4.67
TOTAL	20,722	21,081	20,708	22,625	5.07
MON-WED 62,823 (A)					5.14
					62,032 (A)

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 16-Feb 00 is estimated to be 31,002,000 up 0.75 percent from a week ago and up 3.4 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 30,771,000; last year 29,987,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RETAILERS	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	77-81
ROASTERS 4# & UP	80-90
HENS UNDER 5#	-
HENS OVER 5#	79
DUCKS	125
RABBITS-WHOLE	299
RABBITS-CUT UP	309-316

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY**DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS**

ICE PACK	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	92-97
DRY PACK	104-108
ROASTERS 4# & UP	104-107
DRY PACK	112
HENS OVER 5#	91
DRY PACK	95
DUCKS	149-166

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING FEB -19-00

	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	02/19/00 (1)	02/12/00
CLASS	THOUSAND HEAD	
BRO-FRY	155,286 (2)	160,241
LT HENS	2,090	1,950
HVY HENS	1,440	1,412
CHECK TOTAL	158,816	163,603

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 19-Feb-00 is 152.5 million head compared to 149.4 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 157.2 million head or 4.7 million more than estimated available. For week of 26-Feb-00 the estimated available is 152.7 million head.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS

SELECTED STORAGE CENTERS

(INCLUDES GOVERNMENT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY	PROCESSED POULTRY
	LBS	LBS
AM 14-Feb-00	101,900	78,279
AM 1-Feb-00	94,257	72,756
CHG	7,643	5,523
PCT CHG	8	8

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	02/14/00	02/07/00	02/15/99	02/14/00	02/07/00	02/15/99
PACIFIC COAST	9,404	9,010	17,264	10,312	11,263	15,240
LOS ANGELES	77	133	278	3,410	2,984	6,752

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

FOR 02/15/00

	LOW	HIGH	AVG		LOW	HIGH	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb.	.20	1.15	.60	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-	-	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	.20	-	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	-	-	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	.50	1.10	.78	BANTAMS ea.	-	-	-
BROILERS lb.	-	1.05	-	BROILERS ea.	-	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	.35	.45	-
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	-	-	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	1.00	2.50	-
ROOSTERS lb.	.65	1.60	1.02	ROOSTERS ea.	-	2.25	-
GEESE lb.	-	-	-	GEESE ea.	-	-	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	-	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	-	-
DUCKS lb.	.30	.65	.49	DUCKS ea.	-	3.50	-
RABBITS lb.	.20	1.70	1.16	RABBITS ea.	-	-	-
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	2.00	3.25	-
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	6.00	9.50	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	-	-
SILKIES ea.	-	-	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	2.25	-				

TOTAL COOPS 94

CENTRAL MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY RTC HENS

READY-TO-COOK PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR DELIVERY TO FIRST RECEIVERS, U.S. GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5LBS. AND UP, FOR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 14, 2000

	RANGE
HENS ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	58-63
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	60-66

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS-Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending February 11, 2000

	Whole Chickens	Breasts	Legs W/Thighs	Necks, Backs & Wings	Livers/ Gizzards	Hens
RAYON						
Low	73.29	144.65	81.97	28.93	5.79	53.04
High	75.22	154.29	91.61	33.75	7.23	53.04
Mostly	74.74	154.29	86.79	33.75	7.23	53.04
SAN JUAN						
Low	68.47	130.19	77.15	28.93	7.23	57.38
High	71.84	144.65	86.79	38.57	9.64	57.38
Mostly	69.91	135.01	77.15	33.75	7.23	57.38
NEW SAN JUAN						
Low	73.29	144.65	86.79	24.11	5.79	53.04
High	74.74	154.29	91.61	33.75	7.23	53.04
Mostly	73.77	144.65	86.79	33.75	7.23	53.04
BECERRA						
Low	68.47	125.36	81.97	33.75	7.23	57.38
High	71.36	139.83	91.61	38.57	10.61	57.38
Mostly	70.40	135.01	86.79	36.16	8.68	57.38

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